Additional bogies in local trains of Mumbai

†1626. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of swarming number of passengers in the local trains in Mumbai, Government proposes to convert all the local trains into 12 coaches trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present, in Mumbai about 48% EMU rakes in service are of 12 coaches. In order to progressively run the remaining EMU trains with 12 coaches, provisions for acquisition of rolling stock and infrastructure development have been made under MUTP Phase I and II.

Qualitative change of railways

1627. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) during 2007-08, the Railways earned a profit of Rs. 25,000 crores and provided better connectivity to Aam Aadami from 2004, whether focus, would be now towards qualitative change of Railways by creating world-class infrastructure like high-speed corridors, etc. so that Indian Railways matches the best railway system of developed countries by 2020; and

(b) if so, whether this profit of Rs. 25,000 crores was invested for that purpose, coupled with generation of internal resources and diversion of need-based budgetary support allocated during Eleventh Five Year Plan for creation of world-class infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) During 2007-08 Railways generated a cash surplus before payment of dividend and appropriation to Depreciation Reserve Fund, Development Fund, Capital Fund, etc. of Rs. 25006 Crores. From 2004 onwards, 1093 Kilometers of New Lines, 4717 Kilometers of Gauge Conversion and 1688 Kilometers of Doubling have been completed to provide better connectivity to rail users. Qualitative change of the Railways by creating better infrastructure through modernization and technology upgradation to match advanced railway systems is an ongoing process. As regards high speed passenger corridors, pre-feasibility studies are planned on selected routes and study on Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad route is in progress.

(b) In 2007-08, out of the above cash surplus, after payment of dividend to general revenues, an investible surplus of Rs. 19,972 Crores was set aside to be deployed for appropriation to various Railway funds for Plan utilization for the purpose of asset renewal, creation and modernization of the Railway infrastructure.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.